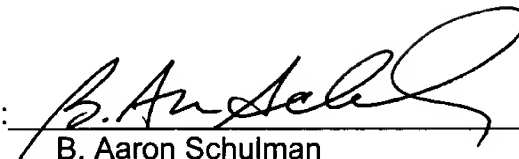


Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12 February 2002

By:


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ATTACHMENT A

Clean Replacement/New Claims

Following herewith is a clean copy of each claim which replaces each previous claim having the same number; and each new claim.

8. (Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 6, followed by removing the microbial cells of the micro-organism from said culture broth or said reaction solution, and wherein the resulting culture broth supernatant or the resulting filtrate of the reaction solution as obtained upon the removal of the microbial cells from said culture broth or said reaction solution containing L-epi-2-inosose therein is then subjected to a treatment with ion-exchange resin(s) or to a treatment with activated carbon or to a treatment for crystallization of L-epi-2-inosose or to any combination of these treatments, whereby L-epi-2-inosose of a high purity is recovered from said culture broth supernatant or said filtrate of the reaction solution.

16. (Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 14, wherein, before conducting the step of effecting the reductive reaction of L-epi-2-inosose with the reducing agent as added, there is conducted such a preliminary step in which the pH of the aqueous medium composed of the culture broth supernatant or the reaction solution filtrate containing L-epi-2-inosose therein is once adjusted to an alkaline pH in a range of pH 8 to 12; and wherein there is then conducted the step which comprises adding to said aqueous medium containing L-epi-2-inosose and having a pH of 8 to 12 an alkali metal boron hydride, an alkali metal tri-alkoxyboron hydride or an alkali metal boron cyanide as the reducing agent, and the effecting the reductive reaction of L-epi-2- inosose with

2
cont
said reducing agent, whereby the desired epi-inositol is produced in a yield much greater than that of the by-produced myo-inositol.

23
22. (new) A process as claimed in Claim 7, followed by removing the microbial cells of the micro-organism from said culture broth or said reaction solution, and wherein the resulting culture broth supernatant or the resulting filtrate of the reaction solution as obtained upon the removal of the microbial cells from said culture broth or said reaction solution containing L-epi-2-inosose therein is then subjected to a treatment with ion-exchange resin(s) or to a treatment with activated carbon or to a treatment for crystallization of L-epi-2-inosose or to any combination of these treatments, whereby L-epi-2-inosose of a high purity is recovered from said culture broth supernatant or said filtrate of the reaction solution.
